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25. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said speed control signal is a continuous variable signal.

26. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said speed control signal is a discrete On/Off signal.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendments. The attachment is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

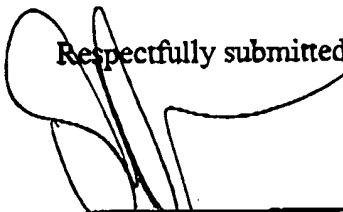
The above amendments are supported by the specification.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-14 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 5,984,641. Claims 1-14 have been deleted and Claims 15-26 have been added to overcome this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant believes that new Claims 14-26 are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-14 have been deleted.

Claims 15-26 have been added as follows:

15. (New) A method for controlling an oil well pump for pumping oil from a well bore comprising the steps of:

receiving first and second temperature signals from respective first and second temperature sensors placed in an output oil flow from said oil well pump; said first and second temperature signals indicative of respective first and second temperatures of said output oil flow proximate to said first and second temperature sensors; said first sensor spaced from said second sensor in said output oil flow;

heating a first region of said output oil flow proximate to one of said first and second temperature sensors;

determining a flow rate for said output oil flow using a difference between said first and second temperature signals; and,

generating a speed control signal for said oil well pump using said flow rate.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 and further including the step of heating a second region of said output oil flow proximate to an other of said first and second temperature sensors.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein said first and second regions are alternately heated.

18. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said step of heating is performed using a constant current heating element.

19. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said first and second temperature sensors are platinum resistance-to-temperature (RTD) devices.

20. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said oil includes crude oil.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said crude oil includes natural gas and waste materials.

22. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said flow rate is a rolling average flow rate.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein said step of determining a flow rate is performed using a flow rate look-up table.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said step of generating a speed control signal is performed using a speed look-up table.

25. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said speed control signal is a continuous variable signal.

26. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said speed control signal is a discrete On/Off signal.